

Serial No. 10/635,502

Docket No. HI-0139

Amdt. dated October 17, 2006

Reply to Office Action of August 21, 2006

REMARKS

By the present response, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 17 and 18 without disclaimer and amended claim 16 to further clarify the invention. Claims 2-12, 14-16 and 19-21 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 16, 17 and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant admitted prior art. Claims 2-12 and 14-15 have been allowed. Claim 18 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 2-12 and 14-15 and indicating that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended the claims accordingly.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 16, 17 and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant admitted prior art. Claims 1 and 17 have been canceled rendering these rejections moot. Further, claim 16 has been amended with the subject matter of claim 18,

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deemed allowable by the Examiner and, therefore, is patentable over the asserted prior art at least for these reasons. Moreover, claims 19-21 are dependent on independent claim 16 and are patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding this independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the asserted prior art does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of claims 16 and 19-21. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 2-12, 14-16 and 19-21 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Frederick D. Bailey, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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